Dear Howard, 9/28/75

Your 9/25 explaining the footnote suggestions came yesterday. Thanks for it and the Jerry info.

Times pressures have multiplied and magnified. And have new and other causes. It will now be a question of time beacuse no matter how little time each one takes the small fragments accumulate. I may not be able to include any.

Last night Lil completed the index. You know this means that I must edit it, which I'll do as soon as there is a call from a guy about a program I'm doing by phone tonight. He called what for him is early (time-zone difference) while I was taking a walk. We've had monsoons and I've been housebound. I want to be without interruption particularly because Lil, whose standards are incredibly high, is uneasy about this index. The time span of her working on it is in terms of your life from adolescence into adulthood. It was tough for her.

I got an early start this a.m. and did the three covers my artist will need. Meaning text for insides and back. He has been delayed by a family death and his daughter/assistant's illness. Promises draft for next couple of days.

Anson is clearly up to a ripoff. I've put Bantam on what amounts to constructive notice. He hasn't done any original work and cites unoriginal work as the original of what he uses in the current article. It is not possible for him to do this kind of book with any real work of his own because of his other professional commitments. Bob woodward told me by phone after lunching with the Bantam president that he is enthused and has given a six-figure advance. For a ripoff? And my great and good friend Jerry is again part of it?

On whether or not Jerry stole any of my papers, the one in particular that is at issue Gary stole and gave to Jerry, who thus has a stolen copy. When I learned of this I notified Jerry in writing. So even if he duplicates it by other means he is handling stolen property. He'd best understand this and not make any further use of it. He didn't even tell Robert how he got it, Robert told me two days ago. Now there is no longer any doubt that these one-shots accomplish nothing, as I've been trying to persuade the ignorant and ambitipus for years. If Jerry gives any of my work to nayone and in particular to Anson, who has been stealing it all along, Jerry will not live long enough to forget it. Especially with Bantam, which refused to do WW as a matter of policy and has declined other work with editorial approval since. And provided a key and flasifying and misrepresenting vice president for the State in the Ray hearing. I cangt now take time to write him and I don't know if you can, but if we have so much as a suggestion of hurt from his nick ego and overweening self-importance I'll dedicate myself to giving him what he has deserved all these years of fpuling up. I'm about to bring my own work out and it is utterly unconscionable for anyone, particularly one trusted and representing himself as a friend to do anything with any of its content. Particularly to a literary whore. I tried to sell New Times ancillary rights through Anson, they refused to buy and simply stole. Jerry sure has fine taste in "friends."

CBS is clearly up to a ripoff on both JFK and MLK cases. I have to have this out and some attention to it prior to then. This new type of printing requires close scheduling because the equipment is fantastically expensive and must be used around the clock to be amortized. I've asked for the printing to be scheduled. making a special trip into town last night to mail the request. It will be close as it is. But I have no choice. Do I haveto tell you what it means when this close to airing nobody from CBS has spoken to me on the JFK assassination since I made them offers on the first call, an order for the books, months ago? I have finally figured out their reasons for filing a Ray evidence suit they could not win, putting it prejudicially and giving me a conflict of interest, and delaying it as they did. (Until 9/19.) It is to cover their ripoff. And why else would they send a pro (whore who produced 1967 mess) on a pretext of preparing himself to prepare Rather and then do none of this? Martin Waldron was here and agrees the guy dodn't do one thing toward that end.

What I can do I don't know. But try I will. Several days ago, when all fell into place (with more for which there is no time) I drafted a letter to Midgley. Maybe while I'm editing the index Lil can type it and have it ready for tomorrow's mailing before she gets back to the index, to type it. (Then, as you know, I have to fill the remaining pages. With practically not time now.)

Coinciding with this there is a serious problem with our former home I have to try to take care of somehow or it will cost me more than $500.

Were this not enough, aside from the tentative arrangements I'd made for use of the work I had an approach from Bud through Jim on behalf of Schweiker. When I know that Bud can probably steal all of it, as he has other stuff, I sent word back that I would if he would wait a short while until I get the whole package put together. I explained the few conditions to Jim, he found them essential and reasonable, and says Bud expressed satisfaction when he heard Jim's belief that these are reasonable conditions and are in the Senate's interest, too.

In short there is no time, no real help, great pressures and much to contend with. Inveitably this will mean more compromises centering around the most important single consideration, getting the work out. I regard that as the consideration to which all else must be sublimated.

Back to Anson: I'd appreciate it, if I haven't asked, if you'd mark up anything of his you see indicating unoriginal spurces, whether or not (but particularly) my work. It is not impossible that we can get legal help and I'd like to be as ready as possible. One need is to be able to persuade a lawyer there is a chance when he'd have to take any case on prospects - contingency. All the experts in this field work for the wealthy- those to be sued. Ain't easy.

Because he is being typically wretched if you haven't told Jerry already do not tell him this stuff will pppear in two forms before the Post can appear or that I have a record of my offers to the Post. If the question comes up he will not believe you but tell him that I've had it, am prepared to sue and have already started seeking qualified help for him on this. If he has doubts he can call Jim. What I haven't yet told Jim because he needs more time than he has for the Ray appeal is that Playboy people who have read this work and know of others and how helpful I was in Memphis and since then to them have offered to see if they can be of help this way. I just learned last night, by the way, that Steve Jaffe has been able to work his way close to Hugh Hefner, which may explain why he mixed what all up to him recommended on PM.

When the time comes I'll give Jim the NAA stuff. Thanks for it. We've asked for the AEC literature. There still has been no response on my request that they collate the uncollated papers they gave me.

If you see Joe Kraft's sick column today and write him, please carbon me. I did make offers to both the Star and New Republic on what Seulc does not credit and they published jointly. I sent the Star copies, in fact. It may not mean anything but the accumulation of these things can at some point have some value.

Sorry about the typos but thanks for everything else.